

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This invention relates to the washing of sheets of material which contain substances requiring washing for their removal. The invention relates in particular to the washing or [stabilisation] stabilization stage of the photographic processing of [colour] color film and paper. The invention will be described with reference to a system for washing photographic paper.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--There is a need in the photographic industry to remove substances from processed material to ensure image stability. In deep-tank replenished processing systems material passes from one tank to the next. For example, with respect to processing of [colour] color paper, the material passes through a first tank for development, a second tank for bleach/fix and then into a series of wash or [stabiliser] stabilizer tanks. The wash tanks are usually interconnected so that clean washing solution is added to the last of the tank series and the over-flow from the last tank is transferred to the previous tank and so on. In this way the flow of solution is in a direction which is counter to the direction of transport of the paper. This so-called counter-current flow technique enables efficient washing since when the material has the highest content of substances to be removed, the wash solution also has the highest concentration of removed substances and clean solution is only used in the last step when the processed material contains little removable contaminants.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The table below is derived from a mathematical model which predicts the fraction of contaminants remaining in [colour] color paper after a four-tank counter-current wash stage in which 194 ml/m<sup>2</sup> of solution is added to the last tank. High agitation is assumed which allows equilibrium between substances in the solution and processed material to be rapidly established.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 27 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring to figure 1 there is provided a substantially planar inclined surface 2. An inlet 4 for the introduction of fresh wash solution is located at the upper end of the inclined surface 2. An outlet 6 for the solution is located at the lower end of the surface 2. The surface 2 is either covered with a material, such as fabric or other material, or has a surface characteristic which provides resistance to flow and a capacity to hold solution. Figure 1 illustrates the surface covered with a fabric. In the case of a fabric cover 8 the surface provides resistance to flow and a capacity to hold solution in the plane of the fabric by soaking up the wash solution within the [fibres] fibers. This ensures that the solution flows down the plane within the bulk of the fabric cover and not over the surface of the plane in a gap between the plane and the material to be washed, 10, hereinafter referred to as paper, in a way which enables the wash solution to escape from the wash stage before carrying out its washing function. It is important therefore that the capacity of the fabric cover on the plane and the resistance to flow within the fabric cover are such as to enable the wash solution to flow within the bulk of the fabric cover at a flow rate which is consistent with the rate of transport of paper or other washed material and the required efficiency of washing. The [fibres] fibers further provide agitation which encourages contaminants out of the paper and into the wash solution. The [fibres] fibers further provide a means of preventing the contaminated solution being dragged up the inclined surface 2 by the paper.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It will be appreciated that a fabric cover is only one of the options which may be used to practice the invention. In this embodiment the [fibres] fibers provide resistance to flow in the plane of the fabric, as stated above. The fabric is preferably a velvet or felt material. Velvet is the preferred option. These fabrics do not scratch the surface of the paper and provide good agitation. Other textured surfaces may be used. For example, a single layer of identically sized,

close packed spheres could be used. These spheres could be made of plastics, glass or some other impermeable material.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Cross web uniformity of washing may be improved by providing, along the length of the surface, opportunities for the solution to flow readily in the direction perpendicular to the direction of paper transport. For example, a series of channels could be cut into the surface 2. These channels may be in the order of a few [millimetres] millimeters in width and a few [centimetres] centimeters apart. Alternatively a ribbed pattern, with the ribs running across the plane would perform the same function. It would also be possible to connect the channels so as to provide a sinuous path for the wash solution to follow. In this embodiment the channel would control the descent rate of the solution and the fabric cover's role would be to carry the solution to the paper surface and provide agitation.--